THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections category-wise as on 31.10.96 and total installed capacity in West Bengal, including Calcutta, are given below:

OYT	*SPL*	*GENL*	*TOTAL*
1339	2454	171978	175771

The total installed capacity is 777917 lines the oldest applicant waiting for telephone connection in Calcutta telephones is since 28.2.93 and in W. Bengal Telecom Circle is since 01.06.88.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

The West Bengal Telecom Circle and Calcutta Telephones propose to increase the installed capacity of the existing exchanges by 135300 lines during 1996-97. It is proposed to set up 64 new electronic exchanges in West Bengal circle and 37 new exchanges in Calcutta Telephones diring 1996-97.

(d) The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 1998

Telephone Adalats

2907. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone adalats organised in Gujarat specially in Badodara, Bharuch and Panchmahal districts, during the last three years,

(b) the number of cases disposed of in these adalats during the above period, year-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise such adalats during the next financial year also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No. of Telephone Adalats organised/cases disposed off are indicated below :

Name of the District/Circle	No. of Adalats held			No. of cases disposed off		
	93-94	94-95	95-96	93-94	94-95	95-96
1. Bharuch	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Panchmahal	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Vadodara	2	4	4	42	65	21
4. Gujarat Circle	21	20	20	385	507	386

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per DOT guidelines, Telephone Adalats are to be held quarterly by each Telecom District/Circle

(e) Not applicable.

Electrification of Railway Route

2908. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the portion of railway lines has since been covered under the electrification programme;

(b) the plans of the Government in this regard for the period upto the year 2000; and

(c) the amount provided for this purpose in the current financial year and proposed to be provided for the subsequent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As on 31.10.96, 13035 route kilometre of track have been electrified on Indian Railways.

(b) About 2200 route kilometre are planned to be electrified upto the year 2000, provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

(c) Rs. 330.70 crore are provided during the current financial year and funds earmarked for the IX Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-98 to 2001-2002 are Rs. 1800 crore.

Introduction of New Train from Solapur to Bangalore

2909. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start new train between Solapur to Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Introduction of Direct Train between Howrah and Ramagundam

2910. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh for direct train service between Howrah and Ramagundam:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether any representation have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?